

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of shredding a block of material, the method comprising:
rotating a drum about an axis, the drum having a plurality of blades thereon; and
feeding the block of material in a feed plane toward the drum in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being substantially perpendicular to the axis about which the drum rotates, and
cutting shreds of the material from a front face of the block with the plurality of blades.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with an arm that forces the block of material in the feed direction.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with a mechanical arm.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein feeding the block of material comprises moving the material with a hydraulic arm.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding the block of material comprises placing the block of material on rollers that move the block of material in the feed direction.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein feeding the block of material comprises feeding a block of cheese, wherein the plurality of blades are configured to cut cheese.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

8. (Original) A method of shredding a block of material, the method comprising:

providing a shredding unit having blades revolving about an axis;
rotating the blades about the axis, wherein the blades define a cutting perimeter;
moving the block of material toward the cutting perimeter on a feed plane and in a feeding direction, the feeding direction being generally perpendicular to and rotated about 90° from the axis about which the blades move; and
cutting shreds of the material from a front face of the block with the blades.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the material with an arm that forces the block of material in the feed direction.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the material with a mechanical arm.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises moving the material with a hydraulic arm.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises placing the block of material on rollers that move the block of material in the feed direction.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit that moves the block of material comprises placing the block of material on a bottom belt to support the bottom surface of the block of material, the bottom belt conveying the block of material in the feed direction.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein placing the block of material on a feed unit comprises placing a block of cheese on the feed unit, and wherein the plurality of blades are configured to cut cheese.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

16. (Currently amended) A method of forming shreds of cheese, the method comprising:

moving at least one cutting blade about an axis; ~~and~~
moving a block of cheese in a feed direction toward the at least one cutting blade, the feed direction being generally perpendicular to and rotated about 90° from the axis about which the at least one cutting blade moves; and
cutting shreds of cheese from a front face of the block of cheese.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein moving at least one cutting blade about an axis comprises rotating a drum having a plurality of cutting blades on the drum.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 16 further comprising forming the block of cheese by stacking a plurality of ribbons of cheese atop each other.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18 further comprising:
forming a continuous sheet of cheese on a belt; and
cutting the sheet along its width to form the plurality of ribbons of cheese.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16 further comprising forming the block of cheese by extruding the cheese into a solid block.